

192. *MERGUS ALBELLUS* (L.).

1911. March 5 (on river).

1913. March 20 (8). April 1 (30), 8 (2).

193. *Ducks* sp.

1911. March 4 (2 or 3 flocks), 5 (several flocks), 16 (many), 19 (a great many), 20 (thousands), 21 (many), 22 (several), 23 (a few on the ponds), 26 (many flocks), 31 (a few flocks). April 3 (2 small flocks), 4 (numbers), 6 (a great many), 9 (a flock), 11 (a few flocks), 12 (many on ponds), 13 (a few). May 3 (1 flock), 5 (a few).

1912. Feb. 27 (a great number on the sea). March 7 (many reported flying backward and forward), 11 (a great many), 16 and 17 (many), 19 (a few), 21 (1 flock), 22 (a few flocks), 25 (1 flock), 29 and 31 (many on ponds). April 7 (1 flock), 9 (1 flock), 21 (seen).

1913. March 5 (1 flock), 15 (1 flock), 19 (great numbers), 21 and 22 (many), 26 (passing port), 28 and 29 (many of all kinds at Hsieh Chia Ying). April 13 (a few). May 31 (2 flocks of 40).

XXXVI.—*A Note on the Breeding of the White-rumped Swift* (*Micropus pacificus*). By Capt. HENRY LANE COCHRANE, R.N., M.B.O.U.

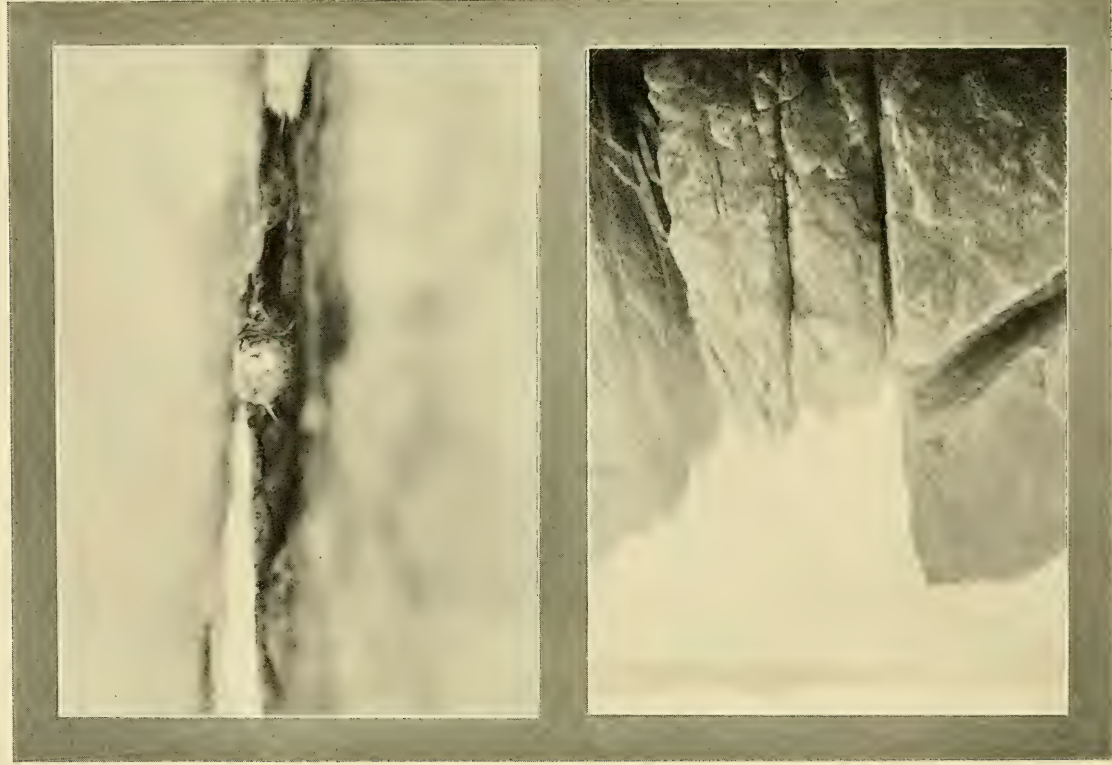
(Plate XXV.)

As there appears to be little published information on the subject of the breeding of the White-rumped Swift, a few observations made recently off the north-eastern coast of China may be of interest.

These beautiful birds are very abundant during the summer months on the Shantung littoral, and may be seen on a fine evening, flying over the summits of the rocky hills, hunting their prey, with a moderate amount of subdued screaming.

It was known that they bred in the neighbourhood, possibly among the many rocky ravines, though searches had proved ineffectual; also, it is on record that a breeding place in the shape of a rocky island had been visited, where,

NEST OF MICROPUS PACIFICUS.



however, breeding operations had been frustrated by a devastating army of hungry rats. Nevertheless, it was a considerable surprise to find a small colony of *Micropus pacificus* established on an unpretentious rock of the most modest dimensions, both in length and height. This particular rock, much broken up, some 50 yards long, and at its highest point 39 feet high, is situated 1400 yards from the mainland, and 400 yards from a respectably sized island, which latter is untenanted by Swifts of any description. Of limestone foundation, the rock is seamed with deep fissures and long narrow crannies, and it is in these recesses that the White-rumped Swift was found breeding in such elevated situations that sea and spray, in their most angry moments, are ineffective to disturb the tranquility of the site chosen. On landing upon the rock and commencing to climb over it, not a sign of any bird life was visible, with the single exception of a solitary shag (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*) which flew off hurriedly from the far side of the rock near the water's edge, where it had been dreaming away the hot summer afternoon. Altogether seven Swift's nests were found; of these two were in vertical crannies, the remainder in horizontal fissures, and all a full arm's length in. Only two nests contained eggs (June 6th), and only three Swifts were seen on the rock. The first nest found contained two eggs. The female bird was on the nest, and the male bird underneath the nest, clinging to it with both feet. So narrow was the cleft, that the birds were constrained to remain in one position, turning round being out of the question. The nest itself, wedged between the rock faces, was a small, perfectly round plate of straw, three and a half inches in extreme diameter, thickest at the rim and very slightly dished in the centre. A few feathers had been worked into the outer part of it, which was hardened with glutinous matter produced by the bird. The two birds at the first nest made no attempt to fly, and allowed themselves to be drawn out, a somewhat difficult operation. They clung very tenaciously to the fingers with exceedingly sharp claws, but when thrown into the air, immediately flew off

with a strong swinging flight. A single bird flew from the second nest discovered, which was two feet down in a horizontal crack, and was similar in all respects to the first nest and contained three eggs. The eggs of the *Micropus pacificus* are typical Swift's eggs—pure white in colour and elongated in shape. Three apparently new nests were found close to each other in the same cranny, a long narrow aperture between two boulders. The remaining two nests were adjacent but separated, the whole area for the purpose being very restricted.

The rock was again visited five days later. All the nests now contained eggs, three of them one apiece only. No other nest beside that previously mentioned contained three eggs. One additional nest was discovered containing two eggs; this made eight nests in all. A Swift was found on each nest, but both birds at only two nests. Three Swifts made their appearance when the rock was approached on the latter occasion, and continued to fly round during the visit.

---

XXXVII.—*Notes on Birds observed in the South Pacific Ocean during a voyage from Sydney to Valparaiso.* By CHARLES F. BELCHER.

ON Thursday, October 23, 1913, I left Sydney as sole passenger in the steamship 'Knight of the Garter,' Captain David R. Stephens, bound with 10,000 tons of Newcastle coal for Valparaiso, which port was reached in due course on Sunday, Nov. 16. With the aid of a pair of field-glasses, I was able to make from time to time observations (chiefly from the poop-deck) on the birds seen. These may be worthy of record as throwing light on the geographical distribution of certain of the species noted, and also as providing material for inferences as to the locality of their breeding-haunts, of which little is as yet known.

The route taken across the south Pacific was not quite the Great Circle track between the two ports, which has